Pratt Institute
Undergraduate Minor

Cinema Studies Minor

The Cinema Studies Minor is for students who want to gain an understanding of film from a humanities perspective. Emphasizing interpretation, theory, history, and cultures of film across the world, it’s a perfect complement for Film/Video majors or other majors who want to develop a critical understanding of cinema, including its relation to new screen and moving image cultures in a global context. The minor involves a required course (Intensive Film Theory) and four electives. It may be declared at any time. Please contact Minor Coordinator Chris Vitale (cvitale@pratt.edu) for more information.

How to Minor in Cinema Studies

The Minor in Cinema Studies includes one required course: "Intensive Film Theory," which provides students a concentrated course in film theory and philosophy. Students then choose four electives. We strongly suggest choosing one that covers material from before the contemporary period (that is, any course that focuses on film prior to about 1970) and one focused on non-western Cinema. Cinema Studies related electives from the Social Science and Cultural Studies Department, as well as from History of Art and Design and other departments, may count towards the minor (with approval).

You may register for the minor at any point during your undergraduate career at Pratt, and courses you've already taken can be counted towards it. Since declared minors are guaranteed registration in the relevant courses, it is to your advantage to declare the minor early on. If you register for the minor and decide later to opt out, there is no penalty. Please see the Minor Coordinator to declare the minor.

Completing the minor means submitting a Qualifying Paper/Project—generally a paper or project you've done for one of the classes that count towards the minor, which you feel represents your best work. The faculty member serving as Minor Coordinator will advise on any recommended revisions if necessary. You may submit a qualifying
paper/project at any time, before or after you’ve completed the coursework for the minor.

For a list of courses that count toward the minor, please see below. If you believe that another course not listed here should count, please see the Cinema Studies Minor Coordinator.

**Required Course**

**HMS-440J Intensive Film Theory (3 cr.)**

This course provides an intensive introduction to film theory and philosophy, contextualized in relation to movements in international film history. Topics likely to include approaches to the cinematic apparatus, montage and mise-en-scene, gaze and spectatorship theory, and approaches drawn from media studies, sound studies, psychoanalysis, semiotics, feminist, queer, and post-colonial studies. The course is required for the Cinema Studies minor but is open to non-minors as well.

**Electives**

Take four courses from this menu of electives:

**HMS 240A: Introduction to Film History/Analysis (3 cr.)**

**HMS 320C: Screenwriting II (3 cr.)**

**HMS 320D: Screenwriting I (3 cr.)**

**HMS 340B: Myth into Film (3 cr.)**

**HMS 340D: Cinema and New Media (3 cr.)**

**HMS 340E: Documentary Image (3 cr.)**

**HMS 340S: Special Topics in Cinema/Media Studies (3 cr.)**

**HMS 341A: Hong Kong Global Cinema (3 cr.)**
HMS 341B: Japanese Film/Media: Gender, Society, Politics (3 cr.)

HMS 432A: Feminist Film/Media Theory (3 cr.)

HMS 440A: Documentary Film (3 cr.)

HMS 440B: Cinema and the City (3 cr.)

HMS 440E: Poetics of Cinema (3 cr.)

HMS 440F: Women in International Cinema (3 cr.)

HMS 440H: Film Theory in Practice (3 cr.)

HMS 440I: Film Sound (3 cr.)

HMS 440S: Special Topics in Cinema/Media Studies (3 cr.)

HMS 441A: Global Cinema (3 cr.)

SS 404: African Cinema

PHIL 205: Philosophy through Film